20th August 1925]

Mr. A. RANGANATHA MUDALIYAR :—" In view of the fact that the arrears of fasli 1333 were collected in one lump sum in fasli 1334, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to consider the remission for fasli 1332, taking into consideration the successive bad years as evidenced by the answer ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I shall be glad to consider the question, Sir."

Damage to houses in Adi-Dravida natham in Erode taluk due to floods.

* 193 *Q.*—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR : Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the houses in the Adi-Dravida natham in the village of Elavamalai in Erode taluk of Coimbatore district were washed away by the recent floods ;

(*b*) whether the Government have acquired a separate land for building the houses of Adi-Dravidas ;

(*c*) whether there is any dispute between the villagers on the one side and a few individuals who have applied for the grant on dharkast of the said natham on the other ;

(*d*) whether it is a fact that the Adi-Dravidas have a temple in the natham and they have to perform some religious ceremonies on it ;

(*e*) whether the villagers have applied to have the lands reserved as a natham as it is without any inconvenience to the Adi-Dravidas and whether they have offered to pay even the price of the natham and applied to the Collector about this ; and

(*f*) whether final orders have been passed on this question and if so, to what effect ?

A.—(*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Survey No. 62 was obtained from the owners thereof by private negotiation, not under the Land Acquisition Act in exchange for the natham S No. 96-A/2 abandoned by the Adi-Dravidas.

(*c*), (*e*) & (*f*) There is a dispute between the owners of S. No. 62 who had agreed to give up their patta land in exchange for the natham abandoned by the Adi-Dravidas and some of the villagers who objected to the grant of the abandoned natham in exchange, urged that it should be retained as poramboke and offered to pay the price that might be fixed for the land required for the Adi-Dravidas. The owners of S. No. 62 were not willing to receive money compensation and insisted on the grant of the land in exchange. The abandoned natham, S. No. 96-A/2, was therefore transferred to assessed waste for grant in exchange to the owners of S. No. 62 which has been given up for natham.

(*d*) The Adi-Dravidas had a temple-site with an idol in the natham, but no temple building. They have agreed to remove the idol to their new natham.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" With reference to clauses (*c*) (*e*) and (*f*), it is said that 'the owners of S. No. 62 were not willing to receive money compensation and insisted on the grant of land in exchange.' Have these people whose lands are taken away the right to insist on exchange of lands being given ? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not quite follow the hon· Member. The proceedings were not taken under the Land Acquisition Act."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Here is a natham which has been occupied by the Adi-Dravidas. The villagers think that the natham is very useful to them and they are prepared to pay the price for it on condition that it remains as a village poramboke. Is it not then possible for the Collector to secure the land in question from the Adi-Dravidas by the application of the Land Acquisition Act? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" I do not exactly know why proceedings were not taken under the Act, but it seems to me that the arrangement actually arrived at was a perfectly reasonable one."

Mode of collecting land revenue from the villages of the Bhavani taluk.

* 194 Q.—Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the villages of Kaveripuram, Thinnappatti and Alamarathupatti in the Bhavani taluk of the Coimbatore district contribute a sum of about Rs. 15,000 a year towards land revenue;

(b) whether it is a fact that those villagers are over 30 miles from the taluk headquarters and that there are several bad characters and members of criminal tribes in those villages;

(c) whether it is a fact that the village munsifs of Kaveripuram and Thinnappatti are sometimes remitting their remittances to the taluk subtreasury by postal money order paying the commissions out of their pocket with a view to reduce the chances of the Government money being stolen and if so, on how many occasions they have so sent their collections within the last five years;

(d) whether it is a fact that the village munsif of Kaveripuram has sent a petition to the Collector to remit the collections at Government cost and whether any action has been taken on that petition;

(e) whether the Government have issued any orders empowering village munsifs to send Government moneys by money order at Government cost and if so, on what conditions; and

(f) if no such orders have been passed till now, whether the Government propose to pass orders giving powers to the Collectors to authorize village munsifs of villages which are at more than a particular distance from the place of sub-treasuries to send their collections by postal money orders at Government cost?

A.—(a) to (d) A report has been called for from the Board of Revenue.

(e) No such orders are traceable.

(f) The matter will be considered on receipt of the report called for.

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" In view of the very great importance of the matter to all the village munsifs, will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to consider the matter once mo:e when the report referred to in answer to clause (f) is received from the Board of Revenue and place the orders of Government thereon on the table of the House? "

The hon. Mr. N. E. MARJORIBANKS :—" Certainly, Sir."